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January 29, 2021

Thank you for subscribing to my weekly newsletter. Below you will find important federal, state and local updates from the last week curated for you in one place.

On Tuesday, January 26th, our dear friend Tammy Broussard passed away unexpectedly. Janet and I are truly shocked and saddened by this news. We were blessed to get to share many happy memories of her and her husband, David, and sons, Trevor & Tristan. She had a truly beautiful heart and was an enthusiastic volunteer at both our church, St. Martha's, and FamilyTime Crisis & Counseling Center. Her bright smile and contagious positivity will be greatly missed by all. In the video below, you can watch Speaker Dade Phelan adjourning for the day in honor of Tammy and her amazing life. I appreciate the Speaker granting her this honor.

Next Monday, Governor Greg Abbott will present the biennial State of the State Address live across the airwaves. Tune in at 7 PM. You can find the best place to watch the speech [here](#).

The Texas House is currently adjourned until Tuesday, February 9, 2021.

Should you have any questions about the information below, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please utilize email communication with our office during this time, via the email contact information at the bottom of this newsletter.

Sincerely,



87th Legislative Session

Texas House Adjourns in Honor of Tammy Broussard



Click image to play video

Rep. Huberty's Current Legislative Agenda

[HB 767](#) - Relating to best management practices for aggregate production operations.

[HB 805](#)- Relating to certain increases in benefits under the firefighters' relief and retirement fund in certain municipalities.

[HB 827](#) - Relating to the disclosure of vehicle speed information to a law enforcement agency by an entity that operates a toll project.

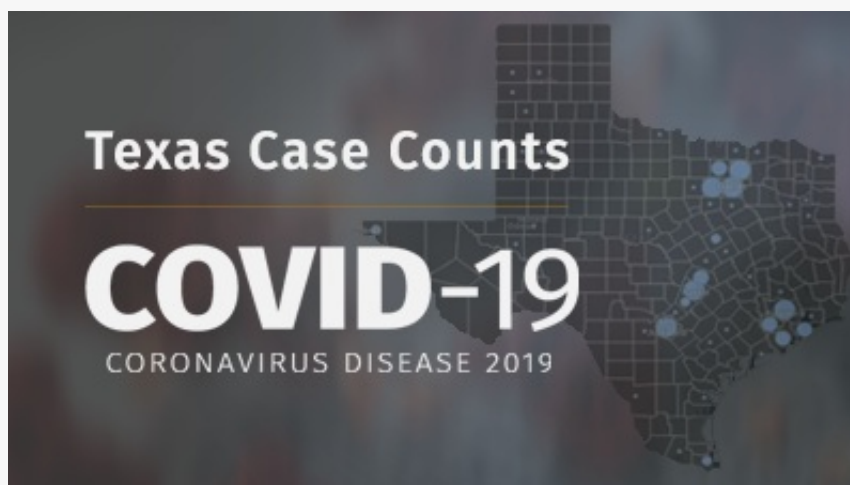
[HB 900](#) - Relating to the liability of a landlord for damages resulting from the execution of a writ of possession in an eviction suit.

[HB 1147](#) - Relating to military readiness for purposes of the college, career, or military readiness outcomes bonus under the Foundation School Program.

[HB 1428](#) - Relating to procurement by a political subdivision of a contingent fee contract for legal services.

State Updates

DSHS: COVID-19 Case Dashboard



TEA, Gov. Abbott Open Grant Applications For Students With Cognitive Disabilities



TEA has launched the Supplemental Special Education Services (SSES) program, which allows families to apply for a \$1,500 which can be used in the SSES marketplace to help mitigate the setbacks of school disruptions experienced by students with complex or significant cognitive disabilities due to COVID-19. The \$1500 will be held in an online account with access to a marketplace which allows families to purchase additive services (speech, academic tutoring, occupational therapy, counseling, etc), materials, and technology to support their eligible student(s). These services do not reduce or eliminate the responsibilities of schools to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to these students.

TEA is requesting that LEAs encourage eligible families of K-12 students who have been identified with complex disabilities or significant cognitive disabilities to review eligibility requirements and complete the [online application](#) through a secure portal. Following the submission of an application, eligible families will receive an email to create their SSES marketplace account through ClassWallet which will give them access to funding per eligible student.

To support LEAs with this communication, TEA will provide a secure upload through the ASCEND platform for each LEA which will contain a list of eligible students based on PEIMS data. Special education directors are familiar with ASCEND, as it is the online platform used by Special Education Review and Support and can be accessed through TEAL. The lists of eligible students will be uploaded into the ASCEND by Thursday, January 28, 2021. TEA will email designated LEA special education contacts once the lists are live on the platform.

In addition, [here](#) are resources for LEAs to use to communicate with families. The resources can be modified for your LEA's unique needs but should only be used to communicate to families provided to you through the ASCEND platform.

LEAs should also communicate with families they believe to be eligible for this program but who are not included on the list. Enrollment requirements are K-12 students who were enrolled in SY 2019-2020 and are currently enrolled in SY 2020-2021.

TEA has secured funding to support up to 18,000 students for this program, families are, therefore, encouraged to apply quickly, as application approvals will occur daily priority will be given to students from economically disadvantaged families.

Additional information, and the application may be found at <http://sses.tea.texas.gov>. Please contact the SSES team with additional questions via email at ssesinfo@tea.texas.gov.

Gov. Abbott Issues Proclamation Recognizing Jan. 28th As Sexual Assault Survivors Day In Texas



Office of the Texas Governor | Greg Abbott

Governor Abbott Issues Proclamation Recognizing January...


Governor Greg Abbott today issued a proclamation in recognition of Sexual Assault Survivors Day in Texas. House Bill 2298, authored by Representative Tan Parker during the 86th Legislative Session, established January 28th as Sexual Assault...

[Read more](#)
gov.texas.gov

Texas Education Agency releases 2020 Annual Report and SY 2019-20 Pocket Edition

POCKET EDITION
2019-20 Texas Public School Statistics

Texas Education Agency
Mike Morath
Commissioner of Education



The Texas public school system consists of:

- 1,202 school districts and charters
- 8,872 campuses
- 363,098 teachers
- 5.493 million students

City of Houston & Harris County Updates

Harris County Public Health Dashboard



District 127 Updates

TWDB Approves Projects Affecting Lake Houston



The Texas Water and Development Board met on Friday morning to approve multiple project applications.

Among the many approved, two will directly affect the Lake Houston area:

Lake Conroe – Lake Houston Joint Reservoir Operations Study
Project 40047

Upper San Jacinto River Basin Regional Sedimentation Study
Project 40061

More information on those projects, the meeting, and the other projects approved can be found [here](#).

Humble Rodeo and BBQ Cook-Off



Contact Information

State Representative
Dan Huberty

[Email Dan](#)

Casey Christman
Chief of Staff

[Email Casey](#)

Jack Reed
Legislative Director

[Email Jack](#)

Ryan Marquess
Committee Clerk

[Email Ryan](#)

Capitol Physical Address:

1100 Congress Avenue, GS.2
Austin, TX 78701

Capitol Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

Capitol Phone:

(512) 463-0520

Capitol Fax:

(512) 463-1606

District Address:

4501 Magnolia Cove
Suite 201
Kingwood, TX 77345

District Phone:

(281) 360-9410

